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Chairman: Mr. Mochochoko ..... (Lesotho)

Contents

Agenda item 160: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (*continued*)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Agenda item 160: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (*continued*) (A/54/37 and A/54/301 and Add.1; A/C.6/54/2; A/C.6/54/L.2)

1. **Mr. Štefánek** (Slovakia) recalled that the international community had been concerned with the problem of terrorism since the time of the League of Nations. In 1934 a resolution had been adopted specifically referring to the establishment of an international criminal court for the suppression of terrorism; later, in 1937, the Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of Terrorism had been adopted, although it had never come into force, defining acts of terrorism as criminal acts intended or calculated to create a state of terror in the minds of particular persons or a group of persons or the general public. The current decade had witnessed the adoption of the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism (General Assembly resolution 49/60 of 9 December 1994, annex), the Declaration to Supplement the 1994 Declaration (General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996, annex) and the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (General Assembly resolution 52/164 of 15 December 1997, annex).

2. Another important step was about to be taken against terrorists: cutting off their financial resources. His delegation supported the adoption during the current session of an international convention for the suppression of the financing of terrorism. It was also in favour of early completion of the work on a draft international convention on the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, since the use of nuclear weapons by terrorists and possible terrorist attacks against nuclear facilities posed a serious threat to the civilian population. His delegation also noted with satisfaction the support given by the Security Council to the fight against terrorism in its resolution 1269 (1999), in which it unequivocally condemned all acts, methods and practices of terrorism. However, much more could be done. A step-by-step approach had been taken to the elaboration of rules of international law against terrorism; in other words, specific instruments had been adopted for the suppression of particular forms of terrorist activities. His delegation supported the adoption of a general instrument and believed that the draft convention submitted by India deserved consideration.

3. His Government was a party to 9 of the 11 international conventions against terrorism and soon would be completing the legislative process leading to accession to the other two. It had also signed the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and would shortly ratify it. It was also a party to the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism of 1977.

4. **Mr. Aboul Gheit** (Egypt) said it was regrettable that all States and peoples, regardless of their political orientation or geographic location, were potential targets of terrorist activities that claimed innocent lives. His Government had been one of the first to denounce terrorism and to initiate a long-term campaign against it at all levels. At the national level, it had passed laws and adopted administrative measures to suppress terrorism through plans that addressed cultural, economic and security questions. At the regional level, it had promoted the Arab Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism of 1998 and the two conventions adopted in 1999 under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. At the international level, it was a party to 10 international conventions against terrorism.

5. His Government had decided to sign the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and urged States that had not done so to accede to the existing international conventions. His Government had responded to the invitation of the Secretary-General to provide information on measures taken at the national and international levels to prevent and suppress terrorism and on incidents related to international terrorism.

6. The Egyptian delegation had always believed that the issue of international terrorism should be addressed by the United Nations. In that regard, the role of the Sixth Committee in drafting guidelines and new legal norms which would enable the international community to coordinate its activities against terrorism had assumed great importance in recent years. Because of the importance his delegation assigned to a legal framework to aid in combating terrorist activities, it had participated actively in the elaboration of the draft international convention for the suppression of the financing of terrorism. Among the priority topics on the Committee's future programme of work was the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. His delegation welcomed the

appointment of a coordinator to study various special provisions related to the scope *ratione personae* of the Convention, since a number of delegations from various groups had expressed dissatisfaction with the current situation, given the sensitivity of the issues involved. With regard to the possibility of adopting a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, as called for in General Assembly resolution 53/108, priority should be given to the draft proposal submitted by India.

7. Also in resolution 53/108, the General Assembly had decided to address the question of convening a high-level conference in 2000 to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. His delegation proposed that the question of convening such a conference should be considered in the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210, which would be the proper forum. It invited the General Assembly to include the item in the agenda of the Ad Hoc Committee. That would create an excellent opportunity for promoting dialogue directed towards the formulation of a general, comprehensive set of rules for combating terrorism on the political, economic, technological and legal fronts.

8. **Mr. Al-Kadhe** (Iraq) reaffirmed his Government's determination to combat terrorism energetically, in accordance with the rules of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, in order to eliminate the causes of terrorism within the framework of the Arab Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism. His Government also intended to cooperate in the preparation of a similar convention under the auspices of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

9. His Government supported the position of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, as expressed at its conference held in Durban in 1998, with regard to the need to promote international cooperation in combating terrorism in accordance with the principles of international law, and it rejected all selective and unilateral measures which contravened the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

10. The time had come for the international community to formulate a legal definition of terrorism in order to provide a comprehensive approach to legislation on the matter. All Member States should contribute to the gradual elimination of the underlying causes of terrorism and pay special attention to all examples of racism, colonialism and foreign occupation that might give rise to international terrorism. The fact that the draft convention did not contain a definition of terrorism opened the door to abuses on the part of countries which preferred to use force rather than legal means to promote their own interests to the detriment of the interests of peoples. Any definition must take into account the need to differentiate between terrorism and the legitimate struggle of peoples for their territorial integrity and liberation.

11. The draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism constituted a step forward, although it could be criticized for referring only to acts committed by individuals and not to acts committed by States. The fact that the convention would not apply to the armed forces of States was incompatible with the obligation of the international community to refrain from using nuclear weapons and would open the door to State terrorism. It was significant in that respect that two permanent members of the Security Council, in their aggression against Iraq in 1991, had used depleted uranium weapons. At issue was a new generation of radioactive weapons prohibited by the international community. His delegation supported the position of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries on that issue, a position that should be taken into account in order to create a consensus on the draft convention.

12. The draft international convention for the suppression of the financing of terrorism did not include a definition of terrorism and lacked a general condemnation of State terrorism. His delegation had reservations about paragraph 5 of article 11, which provided that extradition treaties between States parties should be deemed to be modified to the extent that they were incompatible with the convention, since there were territorial extradition treaties that had been adopted on the basis of special regional considerations.

13. His country had been and continued to be the victim of terrorist acts committed by permanent members of the Security Council. Since the large-scale military aggression in October 1991, those States had, without the authorization of the Security Council, imposed a no-flight zone in the northern and southern portions of the country, and their continued air attacks had claimed scores of victims among the civilian

population and had destroyed public and private property. Those acts were a form of State terrorism, since they lacked any legal basis. The United States of America had passed a so-called "Iraq Liberation Act", by virtue of which millions of dollars had been allocated to finance terrorist groups opposed to the Iraqi regime. On 28 October 1999, a few days after the Security Council had adopted resolution 1269 (1999) condemning all acts of terrorism, *The New York Times* had published an article reporting on the military training given by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to groups of mercenaries and spies of Iraqi nationality. In so doing, the United States was acting as a sponsor of international terrorism, in violation of the Charter of the United Nations. The purpose of those practices, which involved the use of sophisticated technology, was to destroy the infrastructure of another State and to provoke a state of terror in the general public. The victims of terrorist acts committed by States far outnumbered the victims of such acts committed by individuals. His delegation emphasized the responsibility incurred by States which provided weapons, resources and training to terrorists in order to achieve their own political ends.

14. **Mr. Shihab** (Maldives) said it was appalling that, as the new millennium approached, the threat of international terrorism was still continuing to grow. Terrorists had access to modern, lethal weapons and were taking advantage of the rapid technological advances in transport and communications. No State was free from the threat of terrorism. Small States, such as Maldives, were the easiest targets and the most vulnerable to terrorist attacks. In 1988, his country had been attacked by some 70 mercenaries; the attack had been repelled with assistance from India. The aggression against Maldives underlined the transnational nature of modern terrorism; the terrorists had belonged to an organization in a neighbouring country that was financed and armed by contributions from members in safe havens in various corners of the globe. No one country acting alone could effectively combat that kind of transnational terrorism.

15. Spurred by the attack, his Government in 1989 had taken the initiative of asking the General Assembly to include in its agenda an item on the protection and security of small States, which had been the subject of resolutions adopted at the forty-fourth, forty-sixth and forty-ninth sessions. The aim of the resolutions had not been to create a United Nations-led peace force to aid small States, but to draw international attention to the fact that the security of small States was an integral part of global peace and security. Hence, the international community had a collective obligation to respond with seriousness and commitment to threats faced by small States, regardless of the economic prosperity, strategic location or importance of the country in question. Unless the international community assumed that responsibility, small States would have no alternative but to divert their scarce resources from development activities to military purposes or to conclude defence agreements with larger Powers.

16. Maldives was a party to many international legal instruments against terrorism and was actively considering accession to others. It was regrettable that, a decade after the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries had been opened for signature, it had still not entered into force; his delegation urged States that had not yet acceded to or ratified the Convention to do so in order to facilitate its early entry into force.

17. Regional cooperation played a very important role in combating terrorism, and consultation and cooperation at the regional level were essential in creating security arrangements and legal frameworks that would complement efforts at the international level. He noted with satisfaction that the Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), under which States members were committed to extraditing or prosecuting terrorists, had entered into force. The Association had also established a Terrorist Offences Monitoring Desk with the aim of collecting, analysing and disseminating information on incidents of terrorism and the tactics, strategies and methods used by terrorists. However, much remained to be done if those measures were to have an impact on terrorist activity in the region.

18. The best defence for small States should be the Charter of the United Nations and the machinery established under the Charter. Strong and urgent international cooperation and commitment were essential in order to overcome the scourge of terrorism.

19. **Ms. Stancu** (Romania) said that her delegation fully subscribed to the statement made by Finland on behalf of the European Union but wished to add some remarks on specific issues. International terrorism was

becoming one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. It was often, although not always, related to illegal trafficking in weapons or drugs, which were a source of enormous financial gain for transnational criminal organizations. Terrorism was the antithesis of human values and civilization, and all acts of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations should therefore be unequivocally condemned.

20. Combating terrorism required the broadest possible cooperation within the framework of international law. Since 1972, when the topic of terrorism had first been placed on the agenda of the General Assembly, a number of important international conventions had been adopted. Romania had been one of the first countries to sign the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and had ratified all the other conventions on terrorism. It welcomed the conclusion of negotiations on a convention for the suppression of the financing of terrorism and looked forward to the completion of the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. The United Nations must be actively involved in the fight against terrorism; rhetorical gestures, must be set aside and endless debate must give way to effective action.

21. **Mr. Samir** (Oman) said that his Government shared the concern of the international community with establishing the necessary mechanisms to combat the phenomenon of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. In recent years terrorism had become transnational; hence the need to intensify cooperation and adopt multidimensional measures to suppress terrorism effectively. All the conventions on terrorism that had been adopted under the auspices of the United Nations should be faithfully and effectively implemented.

22. His delegation hoped that the draft international convention for the suppression of the financing of terrorism and the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism would be adopted by consensus as soon as possible.

23. It was important that the drafts should complement the national legislation of all countries in order to ensure their universal acceptance and enforcement, as the application of double standards in dealing with such criminal acts was unacceptable.

24. The international community should arrive at a clear definition of terrorism in order to be able to differentiate between the struggle of peoples for independence and self-determination and acts of violence aimed at innocent people for the purpose of material gain or for objectives which had nothing to do with the lofty ideals of the peoples' struggles. Acts of violence which endangered the lives of innocent persons could never be justified.

25. On the basis of the principles of Islam, which rejected violence and promoted tolerance and peaceful co-existence among peoples, his Government would continue to condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, whether committed by individuals, groups or States. It would continue to work with the international community to implement all the mechanisms and rules aimed at combating that scourge and to ensure that those responsible for such crimes were brought to justice.

26. The creation of a mechanism to monitor violations of international conventions on terrorism and the establishment of a record of such violations could contribute greatly to the fight against terrorism. His delegation supported the Egyptian proposal for the convening of an international conference on terrorism in 2000 under the auspices of the United Nations.

27. **Mr. Dorjsuren** (Mongolia) said that his delegation condemned all acts, methods and practices of terrorism. Some of those acts, such as terrorist bombings, took the lives of hundreds of innocent people, and the technical potential for carrying out acts of nuclear terrorism was increasing. His delegation therefore fully supported the efforts of the international community to combat terrorism, including the efforts of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210.

28. The Mongolian delegation welcomed the draft international convention for the suppression of the financing of terrorism (A/C.6/54/L.16). Although there might be difficulties with some of its provisions, in general the text was well balanced and acceptable, and his delegation hoped that it could be adopted during the current session. Work on the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism should be expedited. Political will, rather than legal expertise, was what was needed to complete the work on that issue.

29. Once the two draft conventions were finalized, the Ad Hoc Committee should concentrate its attention on the issue of defining international terrorism, even

though the question was highly controversial. Another possible task might be the drafting of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, using as a starting-point the proposal presented by India. His delegation also supported the convening of an international convention under the auspices of the United Nations in order to formulate an international response to terrorism.

30. **Mr. Kazykhanov** (Kazakhstan) said that terrorism was spreading and that no country was free of it; that constituted a threat to regional and international security. The only way to combat terrorism effectively was through joint action by States within the framework of the United Nations which, because of its universal character, was in a position to coordinate the activities of Member States in that area.

31. His Government was, as it had stated on many occasions, opposed to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and believed that an international conference on terrorism should be convened not only to adopt measures to suppress terrorism but also to strengthen cooperation between States to prevent it and to facilitate an exchange of information in that regard.

32. Moreover, the possibility that terrorists might acquire and use weapons of mass destruction made it necessary to elaborate an international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. His delegation also supported the adoption of the draft international convention for the suppression of financing of terrorism, since depriving terrorists of resources was a crucial measure.

33. The terrorist attacks launched recently against Kazakhstan's neighbours had aroused great concern in the region. In September 1999, at the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia, the ministers for foreign affairs had adopted a declaration of principles governing relations between States members of the Conference. The declaration had stated that States members would refrain from promoting terrorist activities, directly or indirectly, and would endeavour to coordinate their activities to combat terrorism. Moreover, at a meeting of the Heads of State of the "Shanghai Five" group of countries (China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation and Tajikistan), it was agreed that the competent authorities of the five States would take steps to coordinate their efforts against terrorism. Representatives of the States parties to the treaty establishing a customs union and common economic space (Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation and Tajikistan) had also condemned international terrorism at a meeting held in Moscow in October 1999. The ministers for foreign affairs of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) had adopted a declaration in Yalta, Ukraine, in October 1999, concerning measures to be taken against the growing menace of terrorism. Kazakhstan had also signed the Treaty on Cooperation between CIS States in Combating Terrorism. At the bilateral level, Kazakhstan had concluded agreements with a number of States concerning mutual judicial assistance in criminal matters and extradition.

34. Kazakhstan attached great importance to cooperation against terrorism and had thus become a party to 7 of the 11 international conventions on terrorism. Its Parliament was considering a bill on combating terrorism and had enacted a new penal code which defined a variety of terrorist crimes, such as attacks against internationally protected persons and organizations, the manufacture and distribution of weapons of mass destruction, hostage-taking, the hijacking of ships and aircraft and the illegal export of technology for producing weapons of mass destruction.

35. **Mr. Baali** (Algeria) said that international terrorism was a serious threat to the right to life, liberty and security of person, in that it was part of a terror campaign whose purposes were to paralyse economic, political and social activity, destabilize States and hinder their economic and social development. A new kind of terrorism had arisen, involving drug trafficking and money-laundering. Accordingly, States were stepping up their efforts to combat terrorism and drawing closer in their positions. The collective reaction against terrorism had been reflected in the adoption of General Assembly resolution 49/60, of 9 December 1994, which contained the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism. The commitment of the United Nations in that regard had also been reaffirmed by the Security Council, which had adopted an important resolution in which it had clearly and unequivocally condemned all acts of terrorism, irrespective of motive, wherever and by whomever committed.

36. His delegation attributed great importance to the formulation of a draft international convention for the suppression of the financing of terrorism. It wished to see that important legal instrument adopted by

consensus during the current session in order to demonstrate clearly that the international community was committed to eliminating terrorism by depriving it of its sources of financing and logistical support.

37. States must also refrain from organizing and instigating the commission of terrorist acts in the territories of other States and must not allow their own territories to be used for activities intended to destabilize other States.

38. Since terrorism was a worldwide phenomenon with many forms and manifestations, the international community required a comprehensive legal instrument for combating terrorism, one that was not limited to specific aspects; to that end, an international conference should be convened under the auspices of the United Nations, as had been urged by the Heads of State or Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries at their Durban Summit and by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its Algiers Summit.

39. In its struggle against terrorism, his Government had not only taken legal steps at the domestic level, but had acceded to most of the international conventions on the subject and had promoted the coordination of measures at the regional level, through, among other things, the Conference of Interior Ministers of Western Mediterranean Countries, whose participants had reaffirmed the priority to be given to the fight against terrorism, which was a threat to the stability, peace and security of the region and to democracy, respect for human rights and collective and individual liberties. Within the League of Arab States, the Algerian delegation had helped to elaborate and had ratified the Arab Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, which had entered into force on 7 May 1999. Within the Organization of the Islamic Conference, his delegation had made great efforts to secure the adoption of a legal instrument to coordinate the actions of Islamic States in preventing and suppressing terrorism. The Organization of African Unity, at its most recent summit in Algiers, had adopted an African convention for the suppression of international terrorism put forward by his delegation.

40. **Mr. Nejad Hosseinian** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that international terrorism, which claimed thousands of lives each year, also disrupted relations among nations, hampered economic and social development and threatened international peace and security. As no country was immune from that scourge, it was imperative that the international community should redouble its efforts to eliminate terrorism.

41. Terrorism had cost the lives of many Iranian citizens in the past two decades. The assassination of the Deputy Chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces in April 1999 had been the latest in a series of attacks carried out by a terrorist organization, that had also caused injuries to a number of Iranian diplomats. The terrorist organization received material, military, political and logistical support from a neighbouring country, and its members, sometimes disguised as representatives of human rights organizations, had found safe havens in the countries that supported them. It was also a matter of deep concern that the Taliban continued to ignore calls by the Security Council to prosecute those responsible for murdering members of the Iranian Consulate General in Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan, and the correspondent of the Iranian News Agency in that country.

42. His Government was a party to several anti-terrorist conventions and had taken the steps necessary to become a party to the remaining conventions listed in the report of the Secretary-General on measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/54/301). In addition to taking joint measures with neighbouring countries and countries of other regions to coordinate efforts against terrorism, his Government had played an active role in the preparation and adoption of the convention on combating international terrorism approved by the Ministerial Meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in 1999.

43. Spurious allegations of terrorism against another State diverted the attention of the international community and were detrimental to the common struggle against terrorism. The measures adopted to fight terrorism should be in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the relevant international conventions, including General Assembly resolution 49/60, of 9 December 1994, containing the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism.

44. The draft international convention for the suppression of the financing of terrorism (A/C.6/54/L.2) had some shortcomings. It did not contain a definition of international terrorism, a question on which the international community had not reached consensus. Moreover, his delegation would

have preferred to have the word "illegal" deleted from article 18, paragraph 1 (a), so that all activities of persons and organizations that knowingly encouraged, instigated, organized or engaged in the commission of the offences set forth in the draft convention could have been prohibited. Despite those deficiencies, there was no doubt that the draft was a step forward in combating terrorism.

45. With regard to the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, informal consultations should continue so that it could be adopted by consensus as soon as possible. In addition, the time had come to concentrate on the elaboration of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, as called for in General Assembly resolution 53/108, of 26 January 1999.

46. **Mr. Al-Obaidli** (Qatar) reiterated his delegation's condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, irrespective of origin or motive, and reaffirmed that the struggle against that threat was a universal responsibility. At the same time, he reaffirmed the inalienable right of peoples to struggle against occupation and the need to differentiate between terrorist acts and the legitimate struggle of a country against occupation and aggression, since such struggle was a legitimate right of peoples in accordance with international agreements and the Charter of the United Nations.

47. There was another form of terrorism that was practised systematically by other means, namely State terrorism, which endangered human rights and the right to live in liberty, dignity, security and peace. An obvious example of State terrorism could be seen in the occupied Palestinian territory, the Syrian Golan and the southern region of Lebanon.

48. His delegation supported the convening of a high-level conference in 2000 under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; it also supported the elaboration of a draft convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, to supplement the other international conventions against terrorism.

49. On the threshold of the new millennium, his country aspired to a better future in which justice, equality and prosperity would prevail, a future free of the manifestations of violence, terror and terrorism, in which all human rights would be respected for the benefit of humanity, so that international stability, peace and security might be achieved.

50. **Ms. Álvarez Núñez** (Cuba) said that international terrorism was spreading and was increasingly diverse; it cost innocent lives in all parts of the world and took the form not only of spontaneous violence and primitive cruelty but also of State policy. Her Government condemned all acts, methods and practices of international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including terrorism instigated, financed or tolerated by States.

51. For 40 years the people of Cuba had been the victims of a wide variety of terrorist activities instigated from abroad, which had resulted in great loss of life and property and caused incalculable suffering. Some of the terrorist methods used against her country involved sabotage or destruction of civilian targets within the country; pirate attacks against coastal installations, merchant ships, aircraft and fishing boats; attacks against Cuban facilities and staff abroad; and countless attempts to kill or harm the country's leaders and even its President.

52. There was ample proof, much of it contained in documents released by the United States, that the organization, financing and execution of all the terrorist activities directed against Cuba in recent years could be directly linked to residents of the United States and various organizations headquartered in that country. It was public knowledge that the Salvadoran mercenaries who had carried out terrorist attacks against hotels in Havana in 1997 had ties to the so-called Cuban-American Foundation, whose mercenaries had been received at the White House by a number of United States presidents. The acts of terrorism directed against Cuba for more than 40 years had been possible only because those who had committed, organized and financed those acts enjoyed impunity in the United States.

53. Much remained to be done by the international community and by the General Assembly, as a truly representative and competent organ, to combat that scourge. Her Government supported all the efforts of the United Nations system to combat terrorism; it had signed bilateral cooperation agreements on terrorism with a number of States and had complied with them scrupulously. It also supported the search for a comprehensive legal framework for the fight against terrorist activities.

54. Her delegation fully supported the initiative of the Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Durban, calling for the convening of an international summit conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

55. Although the conclusion and implementation of international treaties had helped to improve the response capacity of States, there were States parties to some of the main anti-terrorist treaties in whose territories well-known terrorists resided and acted with total impunity. Hence the importance of requiring States parties to comply in good faith with the agreements they had signed and to begin negotiations on a comprehensive convention on terrorism which would define terrorism, set strict rules concerning the responsibility of States to prevent and suppress in their territories the planning of terrorist acts against the security of another State or States and recognize the obligation of States to refrain from assisting, tolerating, or entering into negotiations or agreements with a person or organization to commit crimes related to terrorism.

56. None of the conventions currently in force or recently negotiated included that express prohibition. On the contrary, some countries which claimed to be leading the fight against international terrorism refused even to open negotiations on the issue. In that regard, her delegation supported the proposal presented by India.

57. The adoption of far-reaching measures to suppress the financing of terrorism, whether derived from legal or illegal activities, directly or indirectly, was a highly important element in combating terrorist acts at the international level, and should have been the primary aim of all States in negotiating the draft convention for the suppression of the financing of terrorism. In the negotiations, however, many delegations had shown a reluctance to go to the heart of the problem of terrorist financing and had preferred instead to formulate a superficial regime for the suppression of the financing of terrorism, expressly excluding from the supposed definition of financing some of the actors which constituted the various links in the financing chain, namely corporations and the State itself.

58. Although there were those who believed that the draft international convention was highly ambitious, it did not distinguish between acts of terrorism and the right of peoples to struggle for self-determination and against foreign domination, nor did it thoroughly define the financing of international terrorism. The draft text was weak and left the door open to impunity.

59. For some, it might turn out to be very revealing and compromising to go to the root of the problem and bring to light the individuals and entities connected at various levels with the financing of terrorist activities to be carried out in other States for clearly political purposes, activities linked to transnational organized crime such as, *inter alia*, money-laundering derived from drug trafficking and the recruitment of mercenaries. As long as States took self-serving positions and applied double standards, the response to international terrorism would be weakened and no real efforts would be made to combat terrorism.

60. With regard to the draft convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, her delegation supported the common position of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

61. **Mr. Kouliev** (Azerbaijan) speaking on behalf of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Uzbekistan, said that hundreds of innocent lives had been lost and substantial material and moral damage inflicted in countries that had suffered from acts of terrorism. It was perhaps an irony of the times that the more strenuous the efforts of the international community were to eradicate terrorism, the more aggressive and inhumane the forms of that phenomenon were; it was a danger to peace and stability even in countries that had never experienced it. One fact was undeniable: no State, large or small, rich or poor, could feel safe against the threat of terrorism, which knew no boundaries and did not distinguish between children and military targets or diplomatic and humanitarian missions and which represented a threat to the territorial integrity and security of States and undermined confidence in their relations.

62. The loss of innocent lives as a result of terrorist acts should not be tolerated. The threat of terrorism required an active counter-offensive on the part of the international community, particularly through enhanced cooperation within the United Nations.

63. The delegations on whose behalf he spoke supported the work of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210, of 17 December 1996, and were grateful to the delegation of France for preparing an important draft convention for the suppression of the financing of terrorism. The delegations concerned were also in favour of convening an international conference against terrorism in 2000.

64. In recent years some of the countries on whose behalf he spoke had suffered severely from terrorist activities, involving explosions in public places, attempted assassinations of political figures and other acts that had claimed the lives of hundreds of people. Despite measures taken at the national and regional levels to apprehend and punish the terrorists, some of them had managed to escape and find safe havens in other countries. It was therefore of the utmost importance that all members of the international community should comply strictly with the commitments set forth in the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism and in other international legal instruments.

65. Although progress had been made in creating international mechanisms to combat violence, the measures adopted were inadequate in view of the scope of the terrorist attacks. International efforts must be stepped up and focused on the causes and conditions of international terrorism. All measures taken at the international, regional or national levels must be strictly in accordance with the basic principles of international law and the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

66. The presidents of the States on whose behalf he spoke had agreed to join forces in combating ethnic intolerance, separatism, religious extremism and terrorism. There was a close connection between terrorism, separatism and religious extremism. The States concerned reaffirmed that terrorist acts were in any circumstance unjustifiable, whatever the considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or any other nature that might be invoked to justify them.

67. The activities of terrorist organizations were financed through other criminal activities, including trafficking in weapons and drugs. It was necessary to sever all channels of funding and weapons supplies to terrorist groups. Legal instruments alone were not sufficient; there was a need for strong commitment by States and genuine cooperation by law enforcement agencies in exchanging information and experience on the basis of a common position taken by the international community.

68. **Mr. Uykur** (Turkey) said that terrorism, one of the most serious threats to peace, security and civilization as a whole and a challenge to democracy, civil society and the rule of law, violated human rights and fundamental freedoms, first and foremost the right to life, and posed an obstacle to the development of humanity. Each terrorist act threatened the international community as a whole and, accordingly, States must cooperate and coordinate their activities against terrorism in accordance with the relevant international instruments. His country, which had long suffered from terrorist attacks, condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, irrespective of motive or origin and by whomever committed.

69. The Sixth Committee had an indispensable role to play as a forum for elaborating international legal instruments against terrorism, such as the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, which his country had signed and was prepared to ratify. Another important advance was the draft convention for the suppression of the financing of terrorism, which his delegation had been actively involved in formulating. The overall result was satisfactory, although some ambiguities might have been avoided, because terrorists should be given no opportunity to seek to pass off their crimes as legitimate acts. Nonetheless, his delegation reaffirmed its support for the draft convention. It also hoped that the debate on the draft convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism would be concluded soon.

70. The process of formulating instruments dealing with specific aspects of terrorism should lead to the elaboration of a comprehensive international convention which might bring more concrete results. His delegation hoped that negotiations on the draft text proposed by the delegation of India would begin without delay, and it was ready to participate constructively in that task. It also looked forward to the speedy publication of the compendium of national laws concerning terrorism.

71. **Mr. Cabrera** (Peru) said that his delegation supported the statement made by Mexico on behalf of the Rio Group, but wished to recall that Peru had been

one of the countries that had suffered directly for over 15 years from the scourge and the barbarity of terrorism, which had cost more than 25,000 lives, and caused incalculable physical damage. Terrorism had been defeated thanks to the vigorous and determined joint efforts of the authorities and the civilian population. The international community should understand clearly that in reality terrorist groups were among the chief perpetrators of systematic human rights violations, and those who argued that the State was solely responsible for such violations should be more flexible in their opinions. His Government particularly welcomed resolution 1269 (1999), adopted recently by the Security Council, which condemned all acts, methods and practices of terrorism. As proof of its interest in eliminating terrorism, his country in 1996 had hosted the first Inter-American Specialized Conference on Terrorism. The Conference had adopted a plan of action to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism, which had served as a basis for the subsequent creation in 1998 of the Inter-American Committee on Terrorism.

72. Terrorism was a complex phenomenon that required constant vigilance and diligence to combat. Hence his Government had supported from the start the creation of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 and the various instruments elaborated by the Committee, particularly the recent draft international convention for the suppression of the financing of terrorism, which sought to attack terrorism at one of its most sensitive points, namely, the financing of its criminal activities. During the negotiations, his delegation had raised some technical concerns which had not been resolved, but it was aware that, on an issue so complex, the fact that the convention did not completely satisfy any one delegation was a sign that the instrument had succeeded in striking a balance between the different positions put forward in the course of negotiations. His delegation therefore expressed satisfaction at the completion of the draft and supported its adoption and subsequent opening for signature during the current session of the General Assembly.

73. His delegation regretted that the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism had not yet been finalized. Although the text was not perfect, it would be better for the international community to have a legal framework governing the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism than a legal vacuum on that issue. His delegation therefore urged the Member States whose positions were farthest apart not to flag in their efforts to achieve agreement.

74. His delegation supported the continuation of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee and believed that the time was ripe to take up the study and subsequent elaboration of a comprehensive convention on terrorism. The difficulty of that task did not justify postponing it; rather, it constituted a huge challenge for the international community.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.